Russian Federation and the United Kingdom have called upon Pakistan to fulfil its promises of abandoning terrorism and to put an end to cross-border terrorism, recognising this as an essential step for reduction in tensions between India and Pakistan.

Harassment of Indian immigrants in Italy

277. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal Indian immigrants in Italy are being harassed by Indian Foreign Office for issue of new passports;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the lower staff are seeking bribes to help them; and

(c) the action proposed to assist the Indians in ensuring that their FIRs on loss of passports are filed by the Italian Police and help them in getting new passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Our missions in Italy have dispensed with the system of registering of police reports for lost passports and are issuing authority letters to the applicants on the same day. If passport particulars are confirmed from the Passport Issuing Offices, duplicate passports are issued on the same day.

Issuance of passports to Abu Salem

278. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in India from where Abu Salem, the notorious underworld don, and his accomplice Monica Bedi got passports;

(b) whether these passports were issued under fictitious names;

(c) whether enquiries have been held in this regard;

(d) the number of persons involved in issuing passports; and